

Small Business Office Success Story  
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## **Laboratory Major Subcontractor Boosts Construction Program at El Rito Campus**



*Picture  
Courtesy  
of  
NNMCC,  
El Rito,  
webpage*

An Adobe and Carpentry Construction Program well known for producing professional builders is getting a helping hand from one Laboratory major subcontractor. In the past year, Washington Group International (WGI) has donated three trucks, a small excavating tractor, office furniture, tools, safety supplies, and in-kind services to the Northern New Mexico Community College (NNMCC), El Rito Campus. The donation is part of the subcontractor's effort to stimulate the Northern New Mexico economy through its Northern New Mexico Economic Development Plan it has with the University of California (UC).

"This initiative is not just about our contract, but the strong relationship we have with UC that enables both of us to enhance local community development together," said Randy Bohachek, WGI Project Manager.

"Our company is in the construction arena, and we have a history of building around the world," said Courtney Appearson, WGI Southwest Region Program Manager. "This relationship with the College is very critical to what we do historically, so by teaming up with the educational systems and programs, we are able to help the students advance their skills, which enhances their ability to work and increases their earning potential."

The NNMCC Construction Program began in 1998 as a 4-year program, where students obtain hands-on training during the day and attend classes at night.

"The carpentry students work a 40-hour per week job with the Northern New Mexico-based firm, Blue Sky Builders, while taking classes with me two nights a week," said Quentin Wilson, NNMCC Construction Program Instructor. "Once the carpentry students complete the 4-year program, they receive their journeymen's certificate. An adobe construction student can choose between a one-year certificate and a two-year associate's degree that leads to obtaining a contractor's license."

Wilson claims the program is a strong vehicle to provide the northern New Mexico community with well-qualified builders; however, the skills the students obtain will be even more valuable now that WGI is assisting with some training. "I am really happy with the relationship we have established with the company, not only because we are receiving much-needed equipment and construction supplies, but we are also upgrading our skills because this global company is introducing us to the latest construction industry techniques."

Wilson adds that the future looks bright between the College and WGI because the company plans to provide more training courses (eg., concrete pouring), computers, equipment, and supplies.

To learn about the Adobe and Carpentry Construction Programs, go to the NNMCC El Rito webpage <http://www.nnmcc.edu/www/elrito/>. More information on WGI can be found at <http://www.wgint.com/>.

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